

HAMATEUR CHATTER

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January 2009

President's Letter

After a break, it's time to start a new ham radio year. For our meeting this month, we are pleased to have Dave Schank, KA9WXN, to talk again about the digital TV transition. If you haven't been living in a cave, you know that analog broadcast TV is due to go away in about a month. Dave gave a very interesting presentation last time, and we had an animated discussion afterwards.

It's time for dues again. They remain \$17; add an extra \$10 for a paper Chatter to cover the extra expenses of printing and postage (email Chatter is no extra cost). Dues are our biggest source of income, so paying early will really help the club plan accurately for the year and stay in the black.

Speaking of club expenses, we put a \$75 deposit down for our Christmas party, and then didn't get the minimum number of people. This would have resulted in a total loss, but thankfully Tom WI9TOM, Jack W9ULA and Al KC9IJJ offered their ticket money to go toward covering the deposit, so we are out only \$30. Still not a good thing and not just because of the money. This is the first time in a very long time we haven't had a Christmas party. Was the Saturday date a problem?

The FM Simplex Contest is coming – see later in Chatter for details. See you on the 29th!

73 de A9FH

Board Meeting Notes November 17th, 2008

Items of discussion: action is still needed to fill board positions and decide what to do with 90 years worth of club archives.

The PO Box is in an inconvenient location for any of the present board to reach and should be relocated.

The partial vertical antenna stored at Pioneer Village turns out to be 2 nearly complete antennas – board is considering whether or not to invest to make them usable for Field Day or possible sale.

Respectively submitted Sarah, KB9ZNC

General Meeting Minutes November 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by the secretary Sarah KB9ZNC, as the president and vice-president were unable to attend the meeting. The secretary then read the minutes of the previous meeting, first noting a correction: Mark AB9CD is not looking for a co-chair for Field Day 2009 but offering a chance for the chairman of Field Day 2010 to watch and learn first. Tom WI9TOM moved to accept the minutes, and Joe N9UX seconded. Motion passed.

Mark AB9CD read the treasurer's report, and reminded the membership that he would like to hold a financial review in January (interested parties,

contact Mark). Dwain KC9MJJ moved to accept the treasurer's report and Hal KB9OZN seconded.

Following buzz talk,

Al KC9IJJ spoke briefly about the upcoming Christmas party on December 13th. People were requested to pay the \$15 when they

signed up, which needed to take place before December 3rd.

Joe N9UX informed the club that the FM Simplex contest was going to be held on February 8th 2009, with more info to come.

There are still two empty positions on the board of directors, and the board is also looking for a 'Chatter' editor and website manager. These latter positions could be held by two separate individuals, one individual or a committee. Any volunteers please contact the board.

There will be no general meeting in December; the date of the next meeting is January 29th 2009.

Dave WB9BWP encouraged the members to join the club yahoo! Group.

It was noted that the post office. box issue, mentioned at previous meetings, is being handled and the Board is looking into more permanent solutions.

Mark AB9CD spoke briefly about an issue regarding Field Day catering and the balancing of accounts.

Tom WI9TOM moved to adjourn, seconded by Dwain KC9MJJ. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectively submitted Sarah, KB9ZNC

CQ Contest - It's time for the MRAC FM Simplex Contest!

Sunday February 8th is the date of the MRAC FM Simplex Contest this year. The fun starts at 1:00 pm. All you need to participate is a FM radio, and work stations on any of the 4 bands 144, 440, 52 or 223 MHz.

We are keeping the "sprint" format again this year, so each of the bands

will be run at different times. Just exchange grid squares with the other operator, and move on to your next contact!

A couple of tips for new participants:

1. Know your grid square. See the contest flyer or check the ARRL or QRZ.com websites to find your grid square.
2. Program your radio with the contest frequencies, this will make it easier to find other stations.
3. Have fun!

The rules haven't changed much from last year. We will once again have a special bonus for contacting the W9RH station. The 440 segment of the contest has been reduced from 1 hour to 30 minutes.

Detailed rules and an entry form can be found on the club website www.w9rh.org. The contest will be listed in QST again this year, in the February Contest Corral. If anyone has questions about the contest, or needs help with grid squares, please email me at n9ux@arrl.net.

I look forward to hearing a lot of you on the air in February! -- Joe, N9UX

Christmas Party

Due to an astonishing lack of interest, the Christmas Party had to be cancelled; we failed to meet the minimum requirements for the room.

The club was left on the hook for \$75 in non-refundable fees. Jack, W9ULA, Tom, WI9TOM, and Al, KC9IJJ, graciously donated their party fee to cover the non-refundable fees associated with the Christmas party. Many thanks for those donations.

Al, KC9IJJ, did a remarkable job in making reservations and promoting the event. Kudos to Al for his effort.

This is the only time in recent memory that MRAC failed to hold a Christmas Party.

West Allis Hamfest

The MRAC did not have anyone to staff the club table. This is a sad showing for the club. The directors should not be expected to staff every event. The club needs more membership participation to make it work. Pancho, KA9OFA, has done a heroic effort in the past; we should not expect Pancho to continue this effort.

Superfest

If the club is to have table at SUPERFEST we will need volunteers to staff the table. This is your club, be proactive and help promote it! Don't just sit on your backside and expect a few to do all the work!

J. Travis Baird Award

This honor is for those MRAC member hams who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to promoting the amateur radio service. In the years 2001-2002 the officers and directors of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club discussed and decided to recognize the achievements of MRAC members who have demonstrated a continuing long-term commitment to the amateur radio service. To that end the officers and board agreed to create the J. Travis Baird W9VQD Award.

Travis was a very active amateur, and supported the amateur radio service enthusiastically. He taught and elmered prospective and new hams. He was always willing to help those who sought his assistance. Travis also served in leadership positions within the MRAC organization.

It is in the tradition of Travis that this award is to be presented. This award need not be given every year, but is to remain available for consideration at all times.

If you feel that a member of the MRAC exemplifies the qualities of Travis, please consider nominating that member by submitting an essay clearly describing the accomplishments of the member you are nominating for this award.

The Board of Directors of the MRAC will review the essay and whenever possible verify the accomplishments. If the board determines that the nominee truly exceeds--goes above and beyond the effort of the average amateur a decision will be made whether to honor this individual.

1. The individual must be continuously licensed for 11 years.
2. Must be a member of the MRAC for 10 years.
3. Must not have received the award in the past.
4. The essay must clearly written and documented, and must not exceed 1500 words.

The first and only recipient (thus far) of the award is Dick McNew, WB9PTC (SK).

Repeater Report

For the month of December the repeater was working to expectations. There was no downtime.

Field Day

Field Day is only 5 months away. June 27th & 28th at Pioneer Village. Setup will begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday the 27th. Tear down 1:00 PM Sunday.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be January 29th, 2009, at 7:00pm. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance. The program will be "DTV Transition" by Dave KA9WXN.

NETS

Our Six Meter SSB net is Thursday @ 8:00 p.m. at 50.160 MHz USB

Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz $\pm$ 5 KHz USB.

Our Two Meter FM net follows at

9:00 p.m. on our repeater at 145.390 MHz, minus offset and a PL of 127.3Hz.

Membership Information

The Hamateur Chatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1. MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving.) and December, when the Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:
Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

VE Testing

Saturday, January 31st, 2009
AES - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 28th, 2009
AES - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 4th, 2009
SUPERFEST

Saturday, April 25th, 2009
AES - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 30th, 2009
AES - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 25th, 2009
AES - 9:30 a.m.

AES - SUPERFEST
Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53223

Club Contact Information

Our website address:
<http://www.w9rh.org>.
Telephone (414) 332-MRAC
Telephone (414) 332-6722

Address correspondence to
MRAC
PO Box 070695,
Milwaukee WI 53207-0695.

Email may be sent to w9rh@arrl.net

Our YAHOO newsgroup:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRAC-W9RH/>

Officers and Directors

President – Howard, AB9FH
Vice-President – Brian, KC9HEK
Secretary – Sarah, KB9ZNC
Treasurer – Mark, AB9CD
Director – Al, KC9IJJ
Director – Brian, K9LCQ
Director – Dave, WB9BWP
Director – Open
Director – Open

Field Day – Mark AB9CD

FM Simplex Contest

- Joe – N9UX
- Jeff – K9VS
- Mark – AB9CD
- Brian – K9LCQ

Ticket drum and drawing

- Tom – N9UFJ
- Jackie – No call

Newsletter Editor – Open

Webmaster – Open

Refreshments – Open

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, And Nobody

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.